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Several of the members present expressed a hope that Mr. Smithwick would inform the Society of any further discoveries of this nature made on his lands.

The following papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

ON THE IRISH PEWTER COINS OF JAMES II.

BY AQUILLA SMITH, ESQ., M.D., M.R.I.A.

THE enormous quantity of brass and copper crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and six-pences which had been put into circulation within nine months from June, 1689, being found insufficient to meet the necessities of the King, he resolved to coin money of less intrinsic and current value; and accordingly, on the 1st of March, 1689-90,¹ a warrant was issued to the Commissioners of the Mint, whereby it was ordered that two sorts of coin were to be made, of a white, mixed metal, to pass current in Ireland; the one about the size of a [brass] shilling, having on one side the King's head, with the inscription, *Jacobus i^{idus} Dei gratiâ*, and on the other side having a piece of prince's metal² fixed in the middle, with the stamp of the harp and crown, and the inscription, *Mag. Bri. Fra. et Hib. Rex.*, along with the date, which piece was to pass for a penny; and the other piece, about the bigness of a [brass] six-pence, to be made of the like metal, and stamped on both sides, in like manner, and with the inscription aforesaid, to pass for a half-penny. The Commissioners were authorized to coin such pieces from time to time till further order.³

On the 28th of March, 1690, only four weeks after the date of the warrant for making the pewter coins, which were intended to remedy the scarcity of pence and half-pence, a proclamation was issued, in which the warrant of the 1st of March was recited, and all persons were ordered to receive at their peril, "at the rates aforesaid, in all payments," the said money which was made current for present necessity, and not intended to continue for any long time. It was further proclaimed that, as soon as the said money should be decried or made null, that it should be received in payment for all rents, duties, or debts due to the Crown, or that full satisfaction for the same would be given in gold or silver of the current coin.⁴

Simon says that, "in March, 1690, three new and different kinds

¹ The dates in James the Second's reign are computed according to the civil or ecclesiastical year, which commenced on the 25th of March.

² An alloy of copper and zinc, which

contains more copper than brass does, and is known as Prince Rupert's metal.

³ Simon on Irish Coins, Appendix, No. lxxxiii.

⁴ Simon, Appendix, No. lxxxiv.

of money were struck, viz. Penny pieces, and Half-penny pieces, made of a mixture of lead and tin; and crown pieces of a white mixed metal."¹ It might be supposed from this statement, although the pewter coins were made current by proclamation in 1689-90, that none of them had been coined in 1689; but Simon overlooked the fact of the existence of a penny with the date of that year, published in his seventh plate, fig. 150.

This penny has on the obverse the King's head to the left,² laureated, the hair flowing in loose curls over the neck, which is bare, exactly like the head on the large brass shillings; legend, IACOBUS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Reverse, a harp surmounted by a crown, legend, MAG. BR. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. 1689. In the centre there is a bit of prince's metal, the size of which is shown in the accompanying engraving by the dotted shading. It weighs one hundred and thirty grains. See fig. 4.

The half-penny of the same date has on the obverse the King's bust, to the left, laureated, the hair short, not descending on the bare neck, as it does on the penny; legend, IACOBUS. II. DEI. GRATIA. Reverse, similar in every respect to that of the penny of 1689. In the centre there is a bit of prince's metal. It weighs seventy-two grains. See fig. 3. This coin was not known to Simon, Snelling, or Ruding.

A penny, with the date 1690, corresponds in size and type with the penny of 1689. It has a bit of prince's metal in the centre of the reverse, and weighs one hundred and seven grains. See fig. 5.

Another penny was coined in 1690. The head on it is smaller than that on the penny of 1689 and 1690, already described, the hair short, and the neck bare,* like the half-penny of 1689. The value of the coin is expressed by I^p behind the head, which addition was probably made to distinguish this coin more readily from the copper half-pence of James the Second, issued in 1685, 1686, 1687, and 1688, which were of the same size as the pewter penny, and very similar in type. Reverse, similar to the preceding coins, except that the date is at the sides of the harp, thus, 16 — 90, instead of being over the crown: it has a bit of prince's metal in the centre, and weighs only ninety-five grains, although it is in a high state of preservation. See fig. 6.

The type and legend of the obverse of a half-penny, with the date 1690, are similar to the half-penny of 1689, but the head is smaller, and under the bust there is an ornament or privy mark.

¹ P. 60, edit. 1749; and p. 59, edit. 1810.

* When the head of a coin is said to be looking to the right, or to the left, it is to be understood that the head is looking to the right or the left of the spectator.

² A penny of this type and date is published in Simon's Essay, fig. 176. The hair is represented on the coin as flowing in loose curls over the neck and shoulders of the King's bust, as on Nos. 4 and 5.

Reverse, similar to that of the half-penny of 1689 ; the date is in the same circle with the legend, but is divided by the crown, thus, 16 — 90. It has a bit of prince's metal in the centre, and the coin weighs seventy-one and a half grains. See fig. 7.

Proofs in silver of a coin the same size and type as the half-penny of 1689, but having the date 1690, are not very uncommon. See fig. 9. This coin weighs sixty-five grains and three-tenths, and is milled on the edge with oblique lines, like all the pewter coins previously described. Nos. 6 and 7 show the milling on the edge.

In order to remedy the scarcity of money, and that the standing forces might be better paid, and also to enable the King's subjects to pay taxes, excise, customs, rents, and all other debts and duties payable to the Crown, a certain quantity of white mixed metal was ordered, by proclamation of the 21st of April, 1690, to be coined into crown pieces, to pass for five shillings each. The refusal of these pieces was to be "punished according to the utmost rigour of the law," and counterfeiterers of them were to be proceeded against as guilty of high treason; and all persons who should discover "such offender or offenders, so as he or they be brought to condign punishment," were to be recompensed either by a reward of twenty pounds, or "one moiety of the estate, real and personal," of the offender. Heavy penalties were also to be inflicted on any persons who presumed "either to import, into any part of this realm, or export into any other country whatsoever, any of the said coyn or money of white mixed metal," and rewards promised for their discovery. As in the case of the pewter pence and half-pence, these crowns were not intended to "continue for any long time," and whenever they were "decried and made null," full satisfaction was to be given for them in gold or silver, or they were to be received in payment of all debts due to the Crown.¹

The crown piece, which is minutely described in the proclamation, is of the same type as the brass crowns. The obverse has the King in armour on horseback, to the left, head bare, laureated, in his right hand a drawn sword, erect, legend, IAC. II. DEI. GRA. MAG. BRI. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. A small circular bit of prince's metal is inserted in the fore quarter of the horse. Reverse, in the centre a piece of prince's metal, on which is stamped a crown, the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, arranged cross-wise, on separate shields, each of which is surmounted by a crown, and in the quarters or angles of the cross formed by the shields, ANO—DOM—16—90; legend, CHRISTO. VICTORE. TRIVMPHO, and round the edge of the coin, MELIORIS. TESSERA. FATI. ANNO. REGNI. SEXTO. A specimen in the highest state of preservation weighs two hundred and eighty-one grains. See fig. 8.

¹ Simon, Appendix, No. lxxxv.

In 1704, Mr. Ralph Thoresby, of Leeds, communicated to the Royal Society of London an extract from a letter addressed to him by Mr. Thomas Putland, who gives the following account of the discovery of a number of these pewter crowns:—

“King James, having turned all the Brass Guns of Ireland, and all the Brass and Copper Vessels of the Protestants that he could seize, into Coyn, viz. Half-Crowns somewhat bigger than an English Half-penny, Shillings broader, but not so thick as a Farthing, and Six-pences in proportion; it was order’d to pass current in all Payments, even in Bonds, and discharge of Judgments and Statutes; (insomuch that if Ages to come knew not the reason, they would admire to be told, that there was a time when men absconded, to avoid receiving their Debts, as many here did :) But these stocks of Metal being all spent (which he began to Coyn in June 1689), and no Circulation to bring them back into his Treasury, he call’d in all that he had Coyned, and the Half-Crowns, which before were stamped with a Face, were re-stamped with his Effigies on Horseback, and then paid out to those who brought them in, as Crowns; and the smaller Coyms were melted down, and re-coyned again under the same Denominations, but with less Metal. After the turn was served by this Stratagem, he had not wherewithal to import Copper and Brass; but for want of it, fell foul on the Pewter Dishes, &c. And the piece I sent you of that Metal was Coyned for five Shillings; and the Proclamation to make it passable was as ready as the Stamps, for it was prepared: But King William passing the Boyne, prevented their Proclaiming it. There was very little of it Coyned, for our Government could meet with none of it; until one day, rummaging all their Tinkerly Treasure, that they had left behind them in Dublin when they were routed, by accident I met with one Bag of one hundred and fifty of those Pieces. So that the Piece I sent you, altho it’s of no Intrinsick Value, it’s a Rarity; and had I thought it would have been acceptable, I would have sent you a Specimen of every sort that he had Coyned and Re-coyned here. I am,

“Sir, Your very Humble Servant,

“THO. PUTLAND.¹

“*Dublin, Novemb. the 27th, 1696.*”

The writer is not correct in stating that the proclamation which “was as ready as the stamps” was not issued in consequence of King William passing the Boyne on the 1st of July, 1690. Simon had in his possession a printed copy of the proclamation dated the 21st of April, 1690, and he had seen two or three others. It is evident that it was published, and it is probable that some crowns were issued, as well as the other pewter coins which were made between the 25th of March and 21st of April. The proclamation which Mr. Putland alludes to was probably the one issued on the 15th of June, 1690, in which brass crowns (of the same type as the

¹ Philosophical Transactions, No. 297, March, 1705, vol. xxiv. pp. 1875–6.

pewter crowns) were ordered to be made, and to pass for five shillings each.¹

There are other coins of which no record is known except the evidence afforded by the coins themselves. Simon published a half-penny, which has on the obverse the King on horseback, to the left, wearing a broad-leafed hat, and holding a sword erect in his right hand, the horse prancing on his hind-legs: legend, *IACOBVS . II . DEI . GRATIA*. A small circular piece of prince's metal is inserted in the fore and hind quarters of the horse; reverse, in the centre a crown, behind which are two sceptres in saltire; under the crown a harp, and over it a lion passant guardant: legend, *MAG . BR . FRA . ET . HIB . REX . 1689.*, the word *HALF-PENY* in an inner circle at the sides of the crown.²

Simon, who published this coin from a drawing which was sent to him "by the ingenious Mr. Charles Smith,³ of Dungarvan," in the county of Waterford, was of opinion that it was struck at Limerick at the same time that the fore-mentioned pewter half-pence and farthings [pence and half-pence] were struck in Dublin; and, that they might be the better distinguished from each other, they had a different stamp.⁴

This coin is about the size of the pewter penny of 1689, and much larger than the half-penny of the same date; it also corresponds in size with the two varieties of the penny coined in 1690. It seems to have been intended for a pattern-piece, of which probably very few were struck; for I have not been able to discover one in any public or private collection.

Ruding published a large pewter coin of James the Second, the current value of which he did not know. Obverse, the King in armour on horseback, to the left, head bare, laureated, in his right hand a drawn sword erect: legend, *IACOBVS . II . DEI . GRATIA*. in large letters. A small circular piece of prince's metal is inserted in the fore and hind quarters of the horse; reverse, *MAG . BR . FRA . ET . HIB . REX . 1689.*: in the centre a piece of prince's metal, on which is stamped a large crown. See fig. 1.

This coin is in the British Museum,⁵ and seems to be a pattern for a crown piece. It is larger and heavier than the authorized crown of 1690, and weighs three hundred and forty-six grains.

There is one other coin of James' which is not made of pewter, but I notice it here because the type of its reverse resembles that of

¹ Simon, Appendix, No. lxxxvi.

² Simon, pl. vii. fig. 153, and Ruding, Supplement, part ii. pl. vi. fig. 10.

³ Mr. Smith, the author of the valuable county histories of Waterford, Cork, and Kerry, who subsequently took the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

⁴ Simon, p. 64, edition 1749.

⁵ I am indebted to Edward Hawkins, Esq., Keeper of Antiquities in the British Museum, for impressions of this coin and the pewter penny of 1689, which enabled me to publish, in one plate, all the varieties of James the Second's pewter money with which I am acquainted.

the pewter pence and half-pence. Obverse, the King's head to the left, laureated, the hair flowing in loose curls over the back of the neck, bust draped: legend, IACOBVS . II . DEI . GRATIA. It is identical in size and type with the obverse of the brass six-pence first coined in June, 1689; reverse, MAG . BR . FRA . ET . HIB . REX . 1689.; a crown over a harp, at each side of which are the numerals II. It consists of a hard white metal, which rings with a clear sound, and it weighs fifty-one grains. See fig. 2.

The numerals on the reverse seem to indicate that the value of this coin was four-pence. I know of the existence of five of them, which leads me to believe that they were in circulation to a limited amount, and were probably issued a short time previous to the pewter coins which first appeared in March, 1689–90.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATE, WITH REFERENCES TO ENGRAVINGS
IN SIMON AND RUDING.

1. Crown. Pewter, 346 grains, British Museum.
Ruding, Suppl. part ii. pl. vi. fig. 11.
2. Groat. Mixed metal, 51 grains, Dr. Smith.
Simon, pl. viii. fig. 177.
3. Half-penny. Pewter, 72 grains, Royal Irish Acad.
4. Penny. Pewter, 130 grains, Edw. Hawkins, Esq.
Simon, pl. vii. fig. 150.
5. Penny. Pewter, 107 grains, Dr. Smith.
Ruding, Suppl. part ii. pl. vi. fig. 1.
6. Penny. Pewter, 95 grains, Dr. Smith.
Simon, pl. vii. fig. 176,¹ and Ruding,
Supplement, part ii. pl. vii. fig. 1.
7. Half-penny. Pewter, 71·5 grains, Dr. Smith.
Simon, pl. vii. fig. 151, and Ruding,
Supplement, part ii. pl. vii. fig. 2.
8. Crown. Pewter, 281 grains, Royal Irish Acad.
9. Silver proof of a half-penny, 65·4 grains, Dr. Smith.

NOTES ON THE SURRENDER OF ROSS CASTLE, AS READ
BY JOHN P. PRENDERGAST, ESQ., BARRISTER-AT-LAW,
AT THE MEETING OF JANUARY, 1854.

BY THE REV. A. B. ROWAN, D. D.

BEFORE I proceed to the matter of this paper, I may be permitted for myself and other distant members to express our obligations for

¹ In Simon's engraving the hair descends on the bust, as on No. 5.



IRISH COINS OF JAMES II.